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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Yutaka TAKEUCHI et al.

Application No.: 10/559,531

Filed: December 2, 2005

For: NITRIDING METHOD AND DEVICE

Confirmation No.: 2704

Group Art Unit: 1793

Examiner: Weiping ZHU

Attorney Docket No.: 025416-00024

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 7, 2008

Sir:

In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement dated February 25, 2008, the Applicants hereby elect Group I directed to Claims 13 – 19, drawn to a nitriding treatment. This election is made without traverse. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications on the non-elected claims.

In view of the Applicants' above election, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement has been satisfied. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination of elected Group I, Claims 13 – 19 on the merits.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment with respect to this paper to Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number 025416-00024.

Respectfully submitted,

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